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DISTRIBUTED AS SUPPLEMENT TO THE MARCH NUMBER
OF THE AMERICAN HEALTH MAGAZINE

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STATEMENT OF

PROFESSOR FISHER

Of New Haven, Conn.

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON INTERSTATE AND FOREIGN
COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

NATIONAL HEALTH LEGISLATION

FEBRUARY 13, 1909



PRINTED FOR THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUN-
DRED ON NATIONAL HEALTH

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1909

Columbia University
in the City of New York

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NATIONAL HEALTH LEGISLATION.

STATEMENT OF MR. IRVING FISHER, OF NEW HAVEN, CONN., REPRESENTING THE COMMITTEE OF ONE HUNDRED ON NATIONAL HEALTH LEGISLATION.

Mr. FISHER. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I know it will be exceedingly difficult to do anything like justice to so large a subject in twenty minutes. I am very glad of the opportunity, however, to present a proposed amendment to the bill, Senate 6102, and, if it were possible to have a longer hearing on Monday morning, I know it might be possible to get others of the committee here. Mr. John Mitchell I had hoped might be here, and also Doctor Welch and Joseph Choate and several other members of our committee who are interested in this amendment. The amendment is as follows:

SECTION 1. That the President be, and he is hereby, authorized, by order in writing, to transfer, within one year from the passage of this act, for the purposes of economy and better efficiency, the whole or any part of any bureau, office, division, or other branch of the public service, including the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, engaged in whole or in part in scientific, technical, or statistical work, from one executive department to another executive department, or to or from the Smithsonian Institution.

The rest of the bill is a reprint of the other, authorizing the President to reorganize and transfer the health bureaus of the Government and the other technical and scientific bureaus. The part I am interested in as representative of the committee of one hundred on national health is the concentration of the bureaus into one department.

Mr. STEVENS. Will you name those bureaus that you consider are health bureaus that would come within that amendment?

Mr. FISHER. The Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service is the principal health bureau. That is now in the Department of the Treasury. The Bureau of Pure Foods and Drugs, or the Division of Pure Foods and Drugs, of the Bureau of Chemistry is now in the Department of Agriculture. The department of health of the District of Columbia is a federal institution in a certain sense, and, personally, I would like to see that included.

Mr. STEVENS. You would not include that?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. STEVENS. You have one half of the expense of that paid by the District of Columbia, and that would mix accounting very badly.

Mr. FISHER. If it were transferred, I suppose the whole expense would be borne by the Federal Government. The object of bringing that bureau into it is, if possible, to make Washington a model of sanitation, with the idea of stimulating all the health offices of the

country to improve the health organizations. It is not, of course, necessary that the President should make that transfer if it is not deemed wise; but you asked me what the health bureaus were, and I answered your question. In the Department of the Interior there is the Government Hospital for the Insane, the Freedman's Hospital, the Hospital for the Deaf and Dumb, and the Howard University Hospital for the colored, and the Hot Springs Institution, and all those come under the health service of the Government. There are other bureaus, which are not primarily health bureaus, which bear on the public health service also.

Mr. STEVENS. There is the statistical work which relates to health.

Mr. FISHER. The Bureau of Vital Statistics of the Bureau of the Census deals with statistics of health, although those of us who have looked into it most carefully are of the opinion that it would probably be better not to separate that from the Census, because in making those calculations, for instance, the numerator is the number of deaths and the denominator is the population.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Is there duplication in the work of these bureaus?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Where is the work of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service being duplicated by that of any other bureau?

Mr. FISHER. General Wyman can answer that question better than I, or Doctor Wiley can answer it better than I, or some of these other gentlemen present. Recently in the milk investigation there were three or four different government bureaus concerned and there were three or four different bureaus recently concerned in the investigation of wells for water pollution in the District of Columbia. I think there were two or three bureaus that overlapped. The purpose of this is to try to coordinate or concentrate, or both, whichever is deemed best after careful consideration. In the case of the Bureau of Vital Statistics it seemed to us best to coordinate and in the case of the two bureaus I mentioned awhile ago it seemed best to concentrate. This movement has been going on during the last two or three years and has grown to larger proportions than a good many people have perhaps realized.

Last week our committee of one hundred on national health, which was originally appointed by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, appeared before the Association of Life Insurance Presidents in New York City and presented statistics before the presidents, the actuaries, and the medical boards of the life insurance companies, showing that human life in this country could be easily prolonged at least fifteen years by proper improvement in hygienic conditions in the country which are now neglected, and that the saving would be so great that the interest which life insurance companies have would be enough to justify them in putting money in the public-health movement. After the presentation was made the actuaries and the medical boards commended, and they were unanimous in sustaining our opinion, and then the president of the Metropolitan, Mr. Haley Fisk, stated that his company stood ready to give to this movement \$100,000 a year for the purpose of reducing death claims and increasing health conditions, provided it could be shown that it could be legally expended, and a committee was appointed to ascertain that point. That shows a little of the merits of the case, and since the last meeting of this committee these clippings which I

have here on the table have come into our office in regard to that particular matter, which shows the public interest in the subject.

Mr. STEVENS. You are not afraid of being connected in any yellow-dog fund?

Mr. FISHER. No. If this bill were amended and passed, it would give, I believe, greater public satisfaction in this country than any bill that has passed or can pass in Congress this session. That may seem an extravagant statement, but I think I know what I am talking about. The public has expected legislation of this Congress, and it seems a pity that this Congress should go out of existence after two years of public agitation and work upon it and no measure of legislation be enacted. I know the public will be greatly disappointed, and I can speak in behalf of several hundred thousand of the public, and they will say among other things that it is due to the fact that the President was in favor of it. The President has given two messages to Congress on this subject. There are four health bills before Congress.

Mr. STEVENS. In all fairness, you ought to have it appear as a part of your remarks also that this committee has examined and reported upon two of those bills.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. STEVENS. And they are now on the calendar?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. STEVENS. We have done our duty.

Mr. FISHER. Yes; so far as that is concerned. I did not mean to criticise this committee, but no public health service legislation has yet been enacted. There are four bills which the committee of one hundred are particularly anxious to have passed: One introduced by Mr. Parsons, establishing a child bureau in the Department of the Interior; another a bill appropriating a sum of money for the hygienic laboratory of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service; another concerning the salaries of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service; and the fourth, to which this amendment is to be attached, No. 6102.

An amendment has already been spoken of before a subcommittee of this committee by Doctor Reed, who represented the medical side. I am here to represent the lay side. I am not a medical man. It is merely as a business proposition that this public-health movement appeals to me and those who are on the committee of one hundred on national health. It is as an economist and statistician that I have made a study of this subject, having been spurred to it by bitter personal experience ten years ago. The movement is nonpolitical, but it is one which has commanded a great deal of attention in politics. It is not uncommon now to hear it spoken of as the greatest movement in the country. A short time ago, at Baltimore, at a meeting of our American Association for the Advance of Science, after the addresses which Doctor Wyman and Doctor Wiley made, a number crowded around the platform and told us that they believed that this was the greatest movement of the country to-day; and I know, Mr. Chairman, that the representative of Iowa at the government's consultation or conference made the same statement. President Roosevelt, when the subject was presented to him two years ago, said there was no evidence of popular interest in it, and he could not take a part in it until there was. Five months ago I asked him if he was

then satisfied that there was popular interest in it, and he said it was one of the real movements of the country to-day. Some of the men who are connected with this movement are Hon. Joseph Choate, Doctor Eliot, Archbishop Ireland, Judge Ben Lindsay of Denver, John Mitchell, Doctor Welch, and a number of others. Almost all of the members of the committee of one hundred are men of national prominence. Of the men of national prominence outside who have taken up the work and indorsed it there are Grover Cleveland, who was among the first, and Mr. Bryan, and President Roosevelt, who wrote two letters to our committee and made several speeches and sent two messages upon it to Congress. I have here these messages, the first sent in 1907 and the second in December, 1908. I will read the last two sentences of one of them:

The first legislative step to be taken is that for the concentration of the proper bureaus into one of the existing departments. I, therefore, urgently recommend the passage of a bill which shall authorize a redistribution of the bureaus which shall best accomplish this end.

That was referring to this amendment. Mr. Taft is also thoroughly in favor of it. In a letter written to our committee, he said:

The American Health League is certainly to be congratulated on its rapid progress in numbers and recognition. It is through such an enlistment of public interest that Congress may be expected to enact the legislation necessary to enlarge the activities of the Federal Government in respect to public health. I hope to live to see the time when the increased efficiency in the public health service—Federal, State, and municipal—will show itself in a greatly reduced death rate.

In a letter which I received from him a few days ago from the Canal Zone, he said:

I think the first thing that ought to be done is to assemble all the bureaus relating to health matters under one head in one bureau, or to assemble them at least in one department.

He made that same statement also in his letter of acceptance.

Mr. RICHARDSON. As I understand the amendment which you have just read, the purport and the spirit of it is to transfer these different bureaus relating to health to the Department of the Interior?

Mr. FISHER. The amendment gives the President the authority to make the transfers to such department as he may select, and in such manner as he may choose. It was deemed that that was a technical matter concerning the executive branch of the Government, and that, aided by his advisers in his Cabinet, he could best deal with that.

Mr. RICHARDSON. That is left to the choice of the President?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. He may transfer these bureaus to any general department under the Government?

Mr. FISHER. Yes. The commission on the organization of scientific work, to which we asked him to refer this matter and to which he did refer this matter, reported back favoring the Department of the Interior as the department to be used, into which the federal bureaus should be concentrated. I have here the report of the commission, and if it is desired will read it, but it will prevent my saying anything else if I do. We have the indorsement of a large number of small technical scientific organizations, as well as of a large number of larger organizations, including the Public Health Organization, the American Medical Association with 80,000 members, the National Child Labor Committee, and the labor organizations themselves, including the Associated Fraternities of America and the United Mine

Workers of America with a membership of 300,000. I would like to read from John Mitchell's report a part of the resolution passed by the United Mine Workers of America:

Whereas one of the fundamental principles of the United Mine Workers of America is "to secure the introduction of any and all well defined and established appliances for the preservation of life, health, and limb of all mine employees," and another is by legislation looking to the most perfect system of mine ventilation, drainage, etc., to reduce to the lowest possible minimum the catastrophes which from time to time sweep through the mines; and

Whereas it is a well-known fact that as many accidents in the mines are due to preventable causes, so disease is due largely to ignorance of the laws of health or to negligence in their observance: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the United Mine Workers of America, in nineteenth annual convention assembled, indorse the principles and the work of the committee of one hundred on national health, and urge all members of our union to cooperate in every way possible with the committee of one hundred to bring about the objects which it is formed to promote.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Would you right there allow me to ask you a question?

Mr. FISHER. Certainly.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Would you not prefer, for instance, that the Bureau of Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service be made a separate department and that it should gather all these related bureaus under it?

Mr. FISHER. We have hope that ultimately there would be a separate department; but you will of course recognize, Mr. Richardson, that it would be impossible in this session of Congress to accomplish that; and this was a step in that direction, and I thought it was the first and simplest step. It does not involve any new position or appropriation, and, on the contrary, it has this merit, that it concentrates the health bureaus and puts them together where they can work together and afterwards they can be united into a separate department of health, or the Department of the Interior itself could be recognized and become a Department of Health and Education by taking out of it the bureaus which do not pertain to those subjects and leaving those that do, adding the child bureau and any other bureaus on health that might be legislated later. But this particular amendment is the first simple step, and one that could be passed in this session of Congress, because there is a bill that you have put on the calendar to which it could be attached as an amendment, and it could be passed.

I would say that we have formed the committee of one hundred and a popular league called the American Health League, which now numbers 23,000 and is scattered through 1,600 towns in the United States in which we have our local and advisory committees, consisting of the most prominent men of those towns. This shows the widespread interest in it. The only objection that I have ever heard raised to the project is on the part of the state-rights idea, and I will say a word in regard to that. The States have supported this quite as much as those who are interested in the National Government. The state legislature of Ohio has passed special resolutions favoring this work, and planks have been introduced in the state platforms of Ohio and Delaware favoring this, and in both of the national party platforms planks were put in favoring this movement. The one in the Republican platform reads:

We commend the efforts designed to secure greater efficiency in national public health agencies, and favor such legislation as will effect this purpose.

The Democratic platform, adopted at Denver, stated:

We advocate the organization of all existing national public health agencies into a national bureau of public health, with such power over sanitary conditions connected with factories, mines, tenements, child labor, and other such subjects as are properly within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government and do not interfere with the power of the States controlling public health agencies.

The Independence League party adopted an even broader plank in favor of a national department of health, and Mr. Arthur T. Brisbane has warmly supported the movement to protect public health in the Hearst journals.

In regard to the States, trying to find what the feeling of the state officials was, letters were sent to the governors of the States, and some twenty responded, and among them was only one that was adverse. These replies represented such widely separated States as Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Alabama, Mississippi, Michigan, New Mexico, South Dakota, Oregon, and Washington. Among these indorsements I will quote from only two, one being the nearest and the other the farthest from our executive office. In his letter, Governor Woodruff, of Connecticut, said, "I am glad of this opportunity to indorse the work of the committee of one hundred on national health. * * * I consider the question of public health the most important one which our country has before it." Governor Freer, of Hawaii, writes, "The people of Hawaii * * * are in a position to realize with peculiar force not only the great importance of the subject of health, but also the importance of the cooperation between national, state, and territorial governments in this matter. I wish the committee of one hundred every success."

The part of the report of the Conservation Commission relating to public health was written largely by Governor Blanchard, of Louisiana, and if I am not using up my time too fast I would like to read that in full. May I ask if I have a few minutes left?

The CHAIRMAN. Proceed.

Mr. FISHER. This reads as follows:

Since the greatest of our national assets is the health and vigor of the American people, our efficiency must depend on national vitality even more than on the resources of the minerals, lands, forests, and waters. The average length of human life in different countries varies from less than twenty-five to more than fifty years. This span of life is increasing wherever sanitary sciences and preventive medicine are applied. It may be greatly extended. Our annual mortality from tuberculosis is about 150,000. Stopping three-fourths of the loss of life from this cause and from typhoid and other prevalent diseases would increase our average length of life fifteen years. There are constantly about 3,000,000 persons seriously ill in the United States, of whom 500,000 are consumptives. More than half this illness is preventable. If we count the value of each life lost at only \$700, and reckon the average earning lost by illness as \$700 a year for grown men, we find that the economic gain from mitigation of preventable disease in the United States would exceed \$1,500,000,000 a year. This gain, or the lengthening and strengthening of life which it measures, can be had through medical investigation and practice, school and factory hygiene, restriction of labor by women and children, the education of the people in both public and private hygiene, and through improving the efficiency of our health service, municipal, state, and national.

I prepared as a part of the report of the Conservation Commission a special report covering about 200 pages going into all the details of how the saving in life could be effected. I should be very glad to answer questions. I know that I have covered but a small fraction of what I intended to say.

Mr. WANGER. Professor, was your attention called to the bill H. R. 9123, of which I hand you a copy?

Mr. FISHER (after examining bill). Yes, sir; I have seen that bill.

Mr. WANGER. Has your association taken any action in reference to it?

Mr. FISHER. In reference to this bill?

Mr. WANGER. Yes.

Mr. FISHER. No, sir; it has never been brought up. It has not been voted on adversely, but we are greatly interested in the tuberculosis fight, and we believe that the first step is the concentration of the bureaus which we have provided here.

Mr. STEVENS. Have you met with any antagonism on the part of any of the state boards?

Mr. FISHER. No, sir; we have the cooperation of the state and territorial boards of health. They have passed resolutions favoring our movement here in Washington. Not very long ago, and about the same time, there was a conference held of all the leading health agencies of the country, and we are all pulling together on the subject, General Wyman and Doctor Wiley and all of us.

Mr. STEVENS. Have they encouraged the idea that the jurisdiction of the Federal Government should be extended over such subjects as you have mentioned—the pollution of streams and the investigation of various contagious diseases?

Mr. FISHER. The interstate streams?

Mr. STEVENS. Yes.

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. STEVENS. They have encouraged that?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. WANGER. There was a communication received, I suppose pretty generally, by Members of Congress this morning from somebody, declaring that the real purpose of the President of the United States and of your association, of yourself and of others, was to make the American Medical Association the czar of health problems.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, sir. You asked me if we had had any opposition. I had forgotten. There have been two pamphlets published opposing the committee of one hundred, one by a man by the name of Zack Shedd, in Denver, and another by the man you have in mind, some one at the Hot Springs Reservation who has a bath house there.

Mr. WANGER. That was referred to. I thought the article was published here in the city of Washington.

Mr. FISHER. Whatever you saw probably emanated from one of those two men. They are men that the American Medical Association has attacked as quacks, and they are striking back at the American Medical Association. One of them asserted that the American Medical Association was to form a medical trust, and was under the thumb of the Catholic Church. Considering the fact that we have Archbishop Ireland as a member of our committee, that does not seem very probable. It is ridiculous to discuss, but I will be glad to go into it as far as it is desirable. I do not know who these men are, but they have displayed utter ignorance as to what we were doing and what we were attempting to do.

Mr. RYAN. No organized bodies or local boards of health, state or otherwise, anywhere, are opposed to this movement?

Mr. FISHER. Not that I know of. Do you refer to any that you have heard of?

Mr. RYAN. No; I have not heard of any.

Mr. FISHER. General Wyman, do you know of any?

Doctor WYMAN. I do not know of any; no, sir.

Mr. STEVENS. The serious thing with us is how far we ought to deal with this matter of public health and how far it ought to be done by the States.

Mr. FISHER. That is a question that scarcely need be discussed in regard to this bill, I suppose, as this simply brings together the existing health agencies.

Mr. STEVENS. No.

Mr. FISHER. You mean what will be the next step?

Mr. STEVENS. No; but in discussing these matters of health and all these agencies that affect health, we run into that constantly.

Mr. FISHER. What can the Federal Government do? The Federal Government can do two things. In the first place it can administer laws such as those which the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service administers in connection with the quarantine, with reference to the immigration inspection, the sailors' hospital, and the other hospitals of the Government, and the pure-food law and the meat-inspection law; and in the second place it can distribute information. Personally I believe the second is more important, distributing good information. As Doctor Welch has said, it is really disgraceful in this country, the lack of vital statistics that we have. We can not tell in anything like the way they can in Europe what the length of life is, what the rate of mortality is, and so forth. We have to guess at it. There are only a few places for the registration area where we have statistics. That is one thing and the distribution of information is another. That would save a great deal of useless duplication. For instance, in regard to tuberculosis the state board of Illinois distributes pamphlets similar to those distributed by Massachusetts or any other State which has good health laws. One authoritative pamphlet distributed by the Federal Government would serve the purpose of 40 which are distributed now, and would have ten times or one hundred times the circulation, and far more attention would be paid to it.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Is it not a fact that there has been a gradual and very beneficial progress in legislation in the last six or eight years on the subject of regulating health, and has it not come to be especially in reference to what you said just now in regard to state rights connected with the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service? For instance, it was understood clearly that all of the States had entire rights to keep up their detention camps with reference to yellow fever where they lodged people and looked after them and cared for them before they were admitted into the ports.

Mr. FISHER. Yes, sir.

Mr. RICHARDSON. The States had a right to do that. Under the legislation that has taken place in the last few years that matter has been amicably adjusted in regard to the rights of all the States, and the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, by the consent and with the countenance of the law, has taken possession of almost all those detention camps, and so forth, that the States own, and the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service is now in a very satisfactory manner dealing with that great question of yellow fever?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. Keeping it out of the country?

Mr. FISHER. Yes.

Mr. RICHARDSON. And the States are making no complaint, but on the contrary the States, recognizing the rights that they have, have turned over these matters to the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service. Do you not think that that has been efficiently and fully done?

Mr. FISHER. I think it has.

Mr. RICHARDSON. With great advantage to the country?

Mr. FISHER. Yes, sir; and I would say that in the South it has been especially so. We have had the most enthusiastic letters from the South in regard to this matter. The state rights objection does not seem to hold down there. They have regarded public health as a subject in which federal extension would be permissible.

Mr. WANGER. When Doctor Reed was before the subcommittee he said as follows:

Doctor REED. Now, I want to call your attention to the fact that this bill stops with the authorization of certain investigations, and the authorization of certain suggestions, calculated to remedy these conditions. It does not confer upon the United States Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service or upon any other agency known to the United States Government the power actually to deal with these conditions, but only to investigate and suggest and to propagate certain literature, and to that extent we wish to say that it is valuable, and we have no objection to that provision except in so far as legislation covering that point and no other point will have the effect upon Congress of creating the impression that that question has been dealt with by legislation, and deferring the legislation which will actually grapple with the situation. Therefore we wish to have inserted following this provision words in effect as follows, "with power to carry such methods into effect."

By that he meant the methods of prevention that ought to be suggested. What have you to say as to that?

Mr. FISHER. Our committee never has passed on that, Mr. Chairman. I think that so far as that extension can be accomplished consistently, and applying to interstate streams, the committee would probably favor it. But it has not passed upon it, because it did not feel that it ought to attempt too much at first.

Mr. WANGER. Then, after reading from section 4, Doctor Reed said:

There they are called upon again to investigate and report upon something that the scientific world has been investigating and reporting on for the last twenty years until the matter is reduced to a demonstration.

Mr. FISHER. I think that Doctor Reed overlooked one thing there, that the kind of investigation that General Wyman must have had in mind as to the pollution of interstate streams was specific investigation, as with regard to the Ohio River, for instance. It is true that for twenty years the medical men and scientists have been investigating pollution of streams, how far the pollution will carry before it is obliterated, and so on; but investigation of the specific pollution of specific streams, as I understand it, is the purpose here. The investigation would be local; it would be intended specifically to state that this particular stream is in need of attention, and to call attention to that would effect a great deal of reform by directing public attention to local legislation as well as national legislation.

Mr. WANGER. Then Doctor Reed said:

Therefore we wish to have inserted, following the language that I have read, ending with the word "pollution," the following language:

"To formulate and enforce necessary regulations for the protection of all streams and waterways within the jurisdiction of the United States Government from all forms of contamination deleterious to the public health."

Now, has your association taken any action with reference to that proposition?

Mr. FISHER. No, sir.

Mr. WANGER. You do not assume any attitude toward it at this time?

Mr. FISHER. No, sir; beyond what I have just said.

Mr. WANGER. Are there other persons here who desire to be heard at this time on this public health problem?

Mr. FISHER. I might add one way suggested, that the Government has already made a good beginning; for instance, in these bulletins distributed by the Government.

Mr. WANGER. You mean distributed by the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, or by other agencies?

Mr. FISHER. One by the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service and another by the Bureau of Animal Industry on the hook-worm disease in the South, which has been studied by the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service. It is one purpose of this bill to permit the extension of that campaign in the South. The hook-worm disease is the explanation of the poor white in the South. He is lazy because he is anæmic. He has only 20 per cent of white corpuscles in his blood, and that is because he has this hook-worm disease; and that disease can be overcome, according to the report of the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service, at a cost of about 60 cents in the case of each individual, and it would be easily possible for the persons down there who are suffering with this disease to get rid of it, and for the Public Health and Marine-Hospital Service to stamp that disease out and raise the efficiency of the poor white in the South just as it has been done in the case of the people in Porto Rico. I was talking with the governor of Porto Rico some time ago, and he said that the efficiency of the people there has been more than doubled by that very means.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there other gentlemen who desire to be heard?

STATEMENT OF MR. GEORGE SHIRAS.

Mr. SHIRAS. Mr. Chairman, it happens that while I am a member of the committee of one hundred I am also chairman of the committee on legislation, and the questions by Mr. Stevens and Judge Richardson as to the legal questions that may be involved as to federal and state powers are very intricate constitutional questions which have arisen and will continue to arise for a long time. As chairman of the committee on legislation, I have gone into those questions in the last few years and have prepared a brief of 200 pages, attempting to draw the line where it is possible between the state and federal power, where it is entirely distinct and where it is concurrent, and, as Professor Fisher has already suggested, the particular amendment here does not raise the constitutional question which may sooner or later come up in regard to some of these measures, and which probably was discussed by you gentlemen in regard to the original bill here; that is, with regard to the control of the Federal Government over the pollution of interstate streams. I have an extensive brief on this subject, but that bill has met with your approval and is on the calendar, and we did not think it was necessary to bring any legal questions before you now, but we thought we would submit this matter on its merits. I will mention the fact, however, that I have looked into this thing, and if

now or hereafter in the hearings you gentlemen, whose time is very much occupied with other duties of this committee, not necessarily relating to public health, either privately or as a committee desire me to do so, I will be very glad to lay before you any information I have as the result of these three years of investigation. I simply want to state to you that this committee of one hundred through its committee on legislation has not gone ahead blindly, ignoring the question of legal and constitutional objections.

Mr. ADAMSON. If we would limit the scope of the bill dispensing with the distributing of information we would not run any risk of trouble from any such cause. I have tried for some years to enunciate the doctrine that we could avoid all trouble that might arise by eliminating everything relating to the distributing of information.

Mr. SHIRAS. I think if you limit it not only to the jurisdiction of the Federal Government now, but what it ought to exercise in the future—of course I know your time is limited here, and I do not care about bringing that up except in the way of a suggestion to this committee, that this committee of one hundred, through its committee on legislation, has gone carefully into this in regard to the pending bills and those on the statute books and the one which will have to follow. This is the foundation we are laying here, and I want you to feel that we are not ill prepared, but the committee has been working for several years on these matters. I think it is well to tell this committee that if they think there are doubtful questions involved, we at least are endeavoring to meet them, after having made an investigation, and I desired to make the statement that we have gone very fully into those questions. I only state this for the information of the committee.

Mr. WANGER. If that is all there is on that subject, the committee may pass to other matters. General Wyman, do you desire to make any statement?

**STATEMENT OF DR. WALTER WYMAN, SURGEON-GENERAL
PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.**

Doctor WYMAN. Mr. Chairman, I did not expect to say a word, but some one has asked me to express my opinion in regard to the committee of one hundred. I think they have stirred up interest in a matter that is helpful to the public-health interests of the country. I wish to express myself in that way.

Mr. STEVENS. But do you think it would be advisable at this time to attempt a better—

Doctor WYMAN. I had my hearing, you know, before the committee, and I am a bureau officer, and all that I wished to say at the present time was simply that I wished to express my gratification at the interest in public health laws and the harmony of the public health bodies in regard to this.

Mr. STEVENS. You do not wish to disturb the harmony?

Doctor WYMAN. No, sir.

Mr. WANGER. Doctor Wiley, do you desire to say anything?

STATEMENT OF DR. HARVEY W. WILEY, CHIEF OF THE BUREAU
OF CHEMISTRY, DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Doctor WILEY. I am very much in the same position that Doctor Wyman is in. I am in entire sympathy with the work of the committee of one hundred and the great work which it has in view, which it has started and proposes; and also I would be personally in favor, and officially if permitted to do so, of any operation which would make the public health work of this country more effective and at the same time less extravagant. I think the two could be brought together. While I am in the same position that General Wyman is in, and I can not make any recommendation, I want to state that I sympathize with the efforts of these men in the committee of one hundred through their organized representatives to do everything that is possible to improve the efficiency of the health service. I think that it is the natural desire of man to live, whether he is doing much good or not. It is a human desire. And it is right to live as long as possible and to make our lives more efficient and useful by good health while we do live.

Mr. ADAMSON. And you have got to be the judge as to whether you are doing any good or not, have you not?

Doctor WILEY. Well, we differ in our opinions as to that.

Mr. ADAMSON. And pure food will be very conducive to longevity?

Doctor WILEY. Pure food and pure drugs, which I have charge of in interstate commerce, I think would be very conducive to long life and happiness and contentment.

Mr. ADAMSON. And if a man has the idea that foods are full of all sorts of things, so that he loses his appetite and can not eat them, they do not hurt him, then?

Doctor WILEY. The appetite will return if he works hard enough.

Mr. FISHER. May I add one word?

Mr. WANGER. Certainly.

Mr. FISHER. I was much interested in the hearing in regard to the matter of wireless telegraphy and also as to the proposition before this committee with regard to safety appliances. These are detailed in the general programme for the good of the nation. The saving of life at sea and on land is only a small per cent of the saving that is possible. There are 2,000 deaths every day that are unnecessary—cases in which death could be postponed indefinitely and useful lives could be continued.

Mr. ADAMSON. The committee of one hundred is a committee of general jurisdiction, is it, Doctor?

Mr. FISHER. We have no jurisdiction; our function is only advisory.